

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Published Since 1877

## Mississippi "Southern-types" boosted Montana brethren

By Karen L. Willoughby

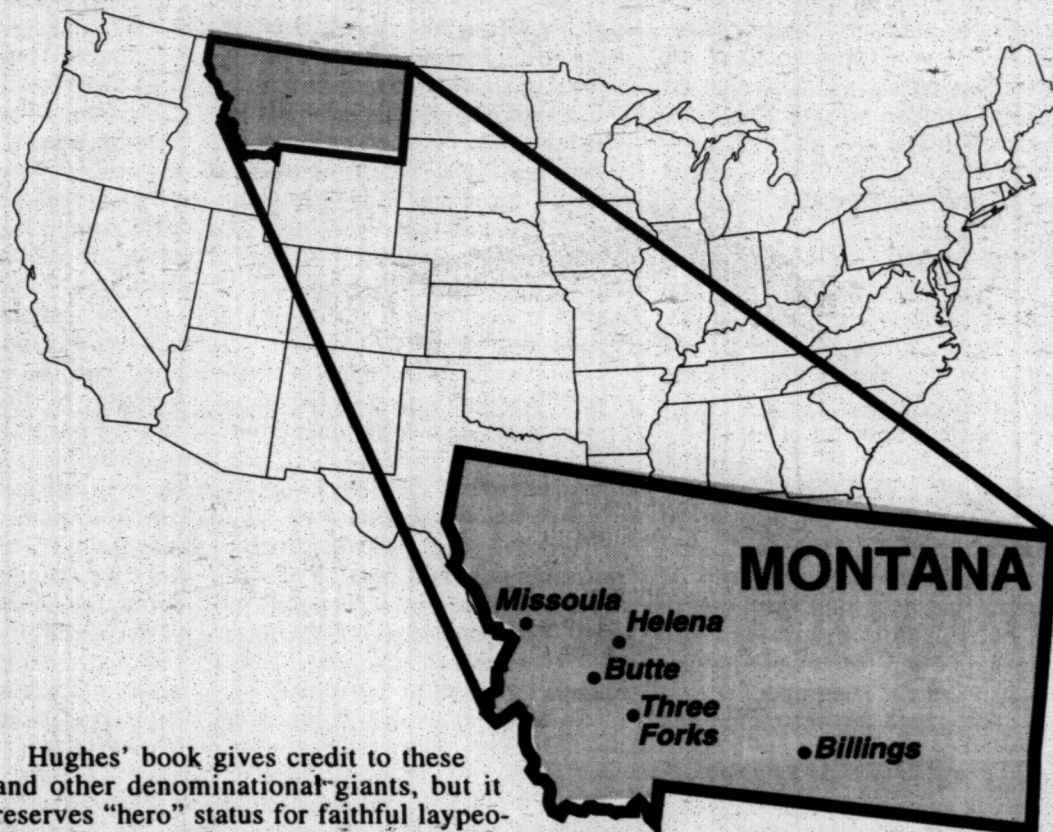
BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — Kathleen Knowling was a bored and lonely housewife when she was reached by the ministry of Southside Baptist Mission in Billings, Mont. Because the need for workers was so great, she was drafted to teach children in Sunday School not long after she became a Christian.

Thirty-five years later, she is known throughout the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship as a solid Bible teacher and one of the mainstays at what has become Bethel Church.

Southern Baptist missions is about people being the hands, feet, and heart of Jesus in their neighborhoods, across America, and around the world. The people of Montana have benefitted from that missionary zeal. Some of their stories — like that of Knowling — have been chronicled in *Stories of Montana Southern Baptists*, written by longtime home missionary Dorothy Hughes.

The book captures the excitement of Mississippians, Floridians, Texans, and other Southern-type Baptists who helped carve a strong Christian witness out of the bedrock of individualism in what has been called a pioneer missions area. Stories of Montana Southern Baptists also is a microcosm of how Southern Baptist evangelistic and church-planting strategies and methods have evolved over the last 45 years.

Much has been written elsewhere about Southern Baptist stalwarts such as missionary Benny Delmar of Casper, Wyo., who started churches wherever he found a Southern Baptist family in the Northern Plains states. Another missionary pastor, Roger Hill (formerly of Texas), with his distinctive flattop haircut, started churches, led family camps, and raised up leaders first in Three Forks, Mont., and continues his work as a missionary in the western part of the state.



### Southaven woman made 10-year goal

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — Ida Owen asked God for a library. He gave her a challenge.

Owen was one of five women who came in 1981 to Yellowstone Baptist College in Billings, Montana, as part of a missions work group from Northwest Association in Mississippi.

Owen returned that fall as the school's librarian. She had retired at age 65 from a similar post at the Hernando (Miss.) High School library.

"It's been the greatest blessing of my life to know I am in God's will, doing what he prepared me to do," wrote the woman known affectionately by students and faculty as "Miss Ida."

She began her work with about 2,000 volumes that had been processed, many unopened boxes of donated books, and three library shelves. Homemaker Andrea

Todd volunteered her assistance; Miss Ida trained her, processed books, and acquired library furnishings.

Along the way, often while at work in the book stacks, she would stop to offer words of consolation, encouragement, and God's grace to homesick students, harried instructors, and hurting preachers.

"She gave liberally to assist students and the school in any area of need," Hughes writes.

The library's holdings grew to more than 31,000 volumes.

Less than a week before her death, Miss Ida said to the college's then-president, "I asked God to give me 10 years to build the library, and he has answered that prayer."

It is this type of long-term, in-depth commitment to God's work that Dorothy Hughes writes about in her book, *Stories of Montana Southern Baptists*.

Hughes' book gives credit to these and other denominational giants, but it reserves "hero" status for faithful laypeople.

She writes of handyman John and secretary Venita Sorrell of Southaven, Miss., who didn't think they had much to offer the Lord in the way of theological training or evangelistic fervor. They answered a call to missions anyway and served as Mission Service Corps volunteers alongside Bruce and Sue Cannon of Missoula, Mont., who were starting a new work.

"Without the ministry of the Sorrells with senior adults, secretarial, bookkeeping, and yard work, Lincoln School Church would not be what it is today," Cannon said. The Sorrells also served in general fix-up, as childcare providers, and as encouragers to the pastor and his wife, Hughes writes.

Many such tales are in *Stories of Montana*

*Southern Baptists*, available from the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship, P.O. Box 99, Billings, MT 59103. For more information on the book or current mission opportunities, call the fellowship office at (406) 252-7537.

Hughes, whose previous book credits include *So Your Dad's a Minister*, is the wife of W.J. "Dub" Hughes, at 19 years Montana's longest-tenured home missionary. In retirement the couple are serving a year in Pennsylvania.

"I want to say, 'These are your heroes,'" Hughes writes in the preface to her book. "I hope... you are challenged by their example."

Willoughby is a free-lance writer in Visalia, Calif.

### Rural revolution

Leadership, training, and vision influence a church's baptism rate much more than its size or location, according to Steve Whitten, director of the Home Mission Board's (HMB) Program Research Department. A 1991 survey of 1,000 churches revealed common characteristics in churches with high baptism rates:

- frequent personal witnessing by the pastor.
- witness training for lay people of all ages.
- use of a variety of evangelistic methods.
- effective identification and visitation of prospects.

Among churches with high baptism rates (five or more baptisms per 100 resident members for two consecutive years), 18% were classified as "open country or village." Gary Farley, HMB director of town and country missions, said such rural churches are growing in baptisms because they have a passion for people without Christ and have enlarged their geographic area of evangelistic prospects. "Many rural churches do well because they find a niche and address a need — spiritual, social, or personal — that no one else is addressing," he said.

### On being sensitive

Many church members in need of counseling turn first to their pastors, but a Southwestern Seminary expert fears that some pastors may be too preoccupied to give the individual care that is needed. "My hunch is, with the emphasis we Baptists have on growing churches, there are a lot of pastors that are not very faithful to this pastoral task," said Doug Dickens, assistant professor of pastoral ministry at the seminary. While attracting new members and managing the church are important pastoral tasks, Dickens pointed out, pastors must be sensitive and helpful to people in need. "There are a lot of things pastors could do in the way of listening and caring if they would be quiet and listen," he said. On the other hand, Dickens explained, there are complex problems that a pastor, being a "generalist," may not be able to handle. "I think when those happen, we ought to refer (people to a professional counselor)," he said. Dickens warned pastors — especially authoritarian pastors — not to be too proud to refer. "Ministry is one of the only professions I know where people will allow enthusiasm to be a sorry substitute for competence," he said.

### Looking Back...

#### 10 years ago

Harry Piland, director of the Sunday School department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, briefs Mississippi Baptists on the new growth campaign, "Challenge 10/90," which aims to enroll 10 million people in Sunday School by 1990.

#### 20 years ago

Putting the finishing touches on the new \$35 million Baptist Hospital in Jackson is expected to pick up speed following the settlement of a 63-day labor strike that halted work just short of completion.

#### 50 years ago

Accommodations in private residences around Jackson are being arranged for out-of-town pastors and messengers confronting a postwar shortage of hotel rooms during the 1945 meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Hold the fort

Has the secular world influenced our worship more than we are willing to admit? Have we reached the place where our favorite verse is, "We are rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing" (Rev. 3:17)?

We have it all now: great buildings, trained staffs, beautiful instruments of worship... but where is the sacrifice?

Singing has long been an expression of worship and devotion. Every worshiper could have a part in chanting a Psalm or singing simple songs. For hundreds of years just plain, simple songs were used. Then hymnbooks were developed; 'ere long each denomination had its own "official hymnal."

The revivalism of the American frontier exerted a powerful influence on the music we use today. Gipsy Smith, Homer Rodeheaver, Ira Sankey, and a great host of hymn writers affected our taste for music. Talmadge W. Dean, in *A Survey of Twentieth Century Protestant Church Music in America*, said, "... Only in America... with complete freedom of worship and near total autonomy... did church musicians find the opportunity and resources for such expansive music programs."

Today there are vast changes

## Guest Opinion...

## Church shouldn't be democracy, but autocracy under Christ

By R. Paul Caudill

For years I have searched for a definitive word that would best characterize the ideal form of government for a New Testament church. Baptist church polity, for instance, has been referred to as "the purest democracy on earth."

But somehow that terminology never quite satisfies. Nor does the corresponding term — Christian democracy — seem sufficient. The word "democracy" comes from two ancient Greek words meaning "people" (*demos*) and "might, rule, power" (*kratos*). Democracy, says Webster's International Dictionary, is "government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is retained by the people."

The emphasis in a democracy, however pure, is obvious: it is on the strength, the authority, and the rule of the people. The same is true of Christian democracy.

Would it not be better to think of the government of a New Testa-

ment church as a "Christocracy"? Such a name would place the emphasis upon the authority of Christ. His strength, his authority, his power, would be forever the ideal — the first and final appeal in every case.

In a democracy, it is possible for the minority to be far nearer the truth than the majority. I have always felt that when a considerable number of believers, in a given situation, dissent from the views of the majority, there is need for further inquiry and further study before the matter is finalized.

In our church, through the years, we have never been satisfied with a mere majority opinion in determining procedures. Again and again, matters have been held up for further prayerful consideration merely because there was a reasonable minority who failed to believe, at the time, in the given procedure. We often refer to such

taking place — with orchestras, huge choirs, professional soloists, snappy contemporary music, and an "anything goes" attitude. Some prefer "Follow, Follow," and others are geared to "Hold the Fort." Traditionalists may see the musical tale wagging the dog and others view new contemporary music as the greatest contribution of this generation.

So where does that leave us on

Sunday morning when we enter the worship center with a hunger for a little quiet time and perhaps a few bars of "Fast Falls the Even Tide"? Often, instead there is the blast of the trumpets, and it is multiplied decibels ever after.

Or, perhaps the hunger is for a little liveliness. "Away with the stale hymns of ancient nations and on with the 'happening.'"

"Worshiptainment" one declares it, and "we are losing the ability to worship and bow before the Lord."

There must be a sense of divine sacredness in worship. God's holy Presence must be approached in reverential awe. Huge crescendos of music will help some people, while others would prefer hushed tones. Music can divide generations and it can split churches. If our real intent is to worship the Lord, then God himself will cooperate with us. Judge not a man's worship by his choice of music. We are not little "automatic cookie-cutter" Christians, stamped out by a religious die. The funeral dirge anthem with a seven-fold Amen may heal one and kill another. Rejoice that our music culture has a variety of styles.

As Steve Miller said: "The (church) body that canonizes musical form and style begins to fossilize right there."

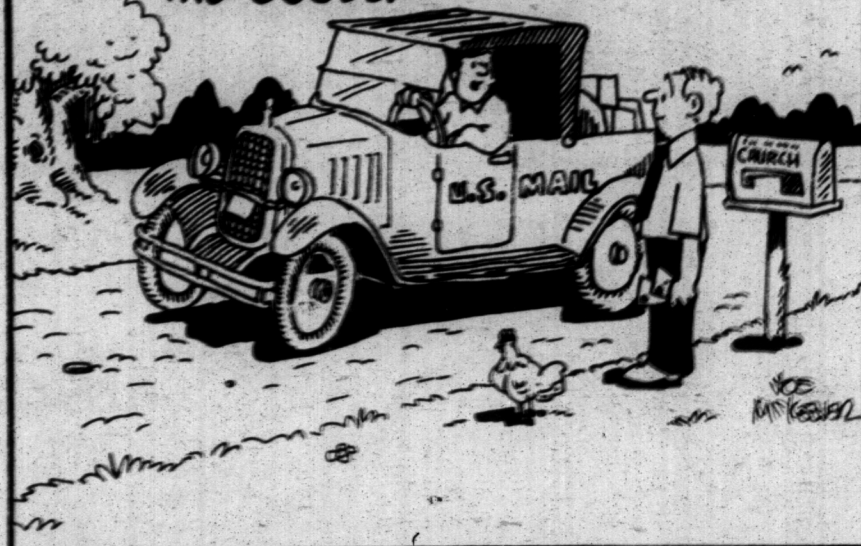
action as putting the matter "on storage." As a result, our congregation has been able to move together over many a rough terrain. Where we have fallen short of absolute unanimity in the making of decisions, we have not lacked in Christian understanding.

In a Christocracy, the authority of Christ is forever the goal, the perfect ideal, however poorly attained. It remains the basis of both the immediate and the final appeal. Is the matter in question right, for instance, in the sight of Christ? What would Jesus say? What would Jesus do? To what extent would the proposed course of action advance his kingdom?

Not the authority of the people, but the authority of Christ! Not the will of man, but the will of God! In a Christocracy, man forever decreases and Christ forever increases.

Caudill is pastor emeritus of First Church, Memphis.

"WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON, PASTOR: WE'RE CHEAP, WE TAKE TOO LONG TO DO OUR JOBS, BUT EVENTUALLY WE BOTH DELIVER THE GOODS."



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Not fit to preach

Joe Epting, pastor at Randolph, sent us a clipping of the following anonymous letter. It is old, but there is the wisdom of antiquity in the lines. It has appeared in many papers and bulletins but ever serves to remind us of the importance of preaching.

"A while back, it seems that after some discussion about the pros and cons in selecting a preacher for a certain church, the chairman of the pulpit committee read to the deacon body this letter, purporting to come from an applicant. It read:

"I have many qualifications! I have been a preacher with much success, and had some success as a leader at most places where I have been. Also, I have traveled rather extensively. I am 50 years of age, and have never preached in one place more than three years. In some places I have had to leave town, as my preaching caused disturbances and sometimes even riots. I admit I have been in jail at

least three times, but not from any wrong doing. My health is not good, but I still get a lot of work done.

"The churches where I have preached have been small, though located in large cities. I have not gotten along very well with religious leaders in the cities where I have preached; in fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically.

"I am not good at keeping records; have been known to even forget some of those I have baptized. If you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

"Then the chairman said, 'What do you think? Shall we take a chance on him?'

"Another deacon said, 'Hire an unhealthy, absent-minded, trouble-making jailbird! I should say not! Who is the applicant? What is his name?'

"Well," said the chairman who had read the letter, 'it is just signed, The Apostle Paul.'

— GH

## Glorieta, Ridgecrest seek summer staffers

NASHVILLE — Applications for 1996 summer staff positions at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Centers are now being accepted.

Applicants must be at least 17 years old.

At Glorieta, about 200 workers are needed May 26 through Aug. 17 and at Ridgecrest, workers are needed June 3 through Aug. 23.

For additional information write to: Summer Employment, Glorieta Conference Center, P.O. Box 8, Glorieta, NM 87535-0009, phone (505) 757-6161; or Summer Employment, Ridgecrest Conference Center, P.O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770, phone (704) 669-8022, ext. 210.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 119

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 38

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 per year plus \$1 postage increase (total: \$8.35) payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/Advertising.....Shannon T. Simpson  
Proofreader.....Betty Smith  
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Robert Self, Brookhaven; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Carl White, Clarksdale; Billie Buckley, Petal; Betty Smith, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.



# Executive Committee approves expenditures, BSU employee

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in its Oct. 24 meeting, voted to employ a new campus minister and approved purchase of a demographics service plus software for it.

Frank Porter, 30, will be the Baptist Student Union (BSU) director at Northwest Mississippi Community College at Senatobia, effective Jan. 1. He goes to that position from Des Moines, Wash.,

where he has served the Mission Service Corps since 1994 as the first ever campus minister at Highline Community College.

Porter's earlier positions include assistant BSU director at Jones County Junior College, Ellisville, 1987-94; summer missionary in Korea, 1987; in Augsburg, West Germany, 1986; and in the Northwest Baptist Convention, 1985.

His other short-term positions include minister of youth at New

By Tim Nicholas

Home Church, Taylorsville, in 1992, and interim assistant pastor and youth minister at First Church, Ellisville, 1990. In addition he held several positions with the Baptist Sunday School Board's summer Centrifuge program and has had secular jobs.

Porter is a graduate of Jones County Community College and Mississippi State University. He earned the master of divinity degree

from New Orleans Seminary.

The demographics package will offer to the convention board, associations, and churches nearly instantaneous information concerning any area or community in the state. The new software will utilize projections for the future, not depending only on the 1990, census as does the system presently used from the Home Mission Board. The current information also takes several weeks to be received.

The packages will be used by the LIFT teams who lead Discovery weekends in churches interested in knowing more about their own communities. The packages

will be made available to other churches on request. Overhead cells can be made in color for easier interpretation.

Cost will be about \$7,500 per year for membership in SCAN/US, plus a one-time cost of up to \$5,500 for the computer software.

In other business the Executive Committee approved purchase of a mail labeling and tabbing machine at a cost of \$9,084.30.

Committee members also heard that earlier approval of up to \$190,000 for air conditioning unit replacements at Gulfshore only cost \$127,365.

Nicholas is director, MBCB Office of Communication.

## Senate committee to explore religious equality proposal

WASHINGTON (ABP) — A proposed religious equality amendment to the Constitution that advocates say is needed to clear up the issue of religious expression in public schools would have the opposite effect, a top Justice Department official told senators Oct. 25.

Debate over the amendment would only further complicate the difficult issue of religion in the public sphere, Assistant Attorney General Walter Dellinger told the Senate Judiciary Committee in its second hearing on the issue in a week.

Dellinger said the Clinton administration is working to reduce polarization on the issue by helping school districts to understand what types of religious expression are already permitted by the Constitution.

"In a country as diverse as ours, we must take care that well-intended discussion about the role of religion in public life — and especially in public schools — does not have the effect of heightening religious tensions and undermining our sense of shared community," he said.

"Before the country embarks on what has the potential to be a very divisive debate on this subject, it is important that we share a common understanding of the kind and amount of religious activity that already is permissible in the public schools," he continued.

A supporter of the amendment, meanwhile, said it is needed to reverse "a state of religious apartheid" that exists in America.

Louis Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition, said that for more than 50 years "public manifestations of Christianity... have been continuously and systematically separated from American society."

Sheldon said groups pushing for the amendment are concerned about hostility toward religion and not — as critics allege — pursuing a hidden agenda to reinstate prayer led by school officials. He labeled that charge a "straw man."

Cathleen Cleaver, director of legal studies of the Family Research Council, admitted the amendment is a "radical procedure" but argued it is needed to

correct court rulings limiting religious expression.

The two religion clauses in the First Amendment, Cleaver said, were designed to complement one another but erroneous rulings by courts have instead placed them in conflict. The proposed amendment is "restorative, not creative," she said.

Another witness, Brent Walker, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee, said the doctrine of church-state separation implied in the First Amendment serves both secular and sacred aims.

"When we tie the church and state together, the church tends to use civil power to enforce its brand of religion and the state palms off the name of God to support its stripe of politics," Walker said. "But when we separate the two, religion tends to flourish, and the state is relieved of the daunting task of making decisions about religion — something it does poorly."

Though some Christians support the proposed amendment because it would open the door for government funding of religion, Walker said churches are better off without tax money.

"When religion bellies up to the public trough, it becomes lazy and dependent. How can religion raise a prophetic fist against government when it has its other hand opened for a handout?" he asked.

Kevin Hasson, president and general counsel of The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, said new laws are needed but not a constitutional amendment. He said the threat to religious liberty is not one of "conspiracy but bureaucracy."

"The law as it is actually experienced by American citizens is mediated by an assortment of zoning commissioners, park rangers, school administrators, and the like," Hasson said. Civil servants have budgets to defend and bureaucratic tranquility to maintain and generally feel the safest course is to exclude religious expression, he said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and committee chairman, said he is reluctant to amend the Constitution but that both sides had valid arguments.

## The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Published Since 1877

## State conventions focus on funding, elections, colleges

(ABP) — Three large states will consider altering Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) funding, several are gearing up for partisan presidential races, while others plan to discuss their relationships with Baptist colleges and other internal concerns at Baptist state conventions gearing up in November.

State conventions in Texas, Mississippi, and Oklahoma will each consider proposals to cut back on SBC support. Texas and Oklahoma are proposing cuts in the percentages of gifts they send to the SBC through the Cooperative Program unified budget while Mississippi is proposing a new way of relating to the SBC's Home Mission Board (HMB).

Battles between moderates and conservatives for state convention presidencies are expected in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and North Carolina. Other states will elect new presidents, but races are lower key.

Baptists in Alabama and Florida, meanwhile, will discuss changes in the way they have historically related to Baptist universities in their states. Alabama Baptists plan to continue to relate to Samford University now that the convention no longer elects the school's trustees. Florida Baptists, meanwhile, will likely end their relationship with Stetson University because of a new school policy allowing alcohol on campus.

Several moderate state conventions have adapted their funding of the SBC in recent years to respond to a decade-long controversy in the 1980s in which conservatives gained control of the

national organization.

Adding to the state of flux this year is a massive reorganization of the Southern Baptist Convention approved in June that will reshape denominational agencies and redefine cooperation between national and state conventions in the 21st century.

Texas Baptists will consider cutting state funding to the SBC about \$1.5 million next year to pay for a five-year project to start 1,400 churches in the state.

SBC leaders say the cut will hurt Baptist work worldwide. Southern Baptists "already spend far more on the 'home base' than on global missions," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. "The current Texas proposal only makes the situation worse."

Larry Lewis, president of the SBC's Home Mission Board, said 20,000 churches are needed nationwide to reach "the estimated 183 million lost people in America."

Some observers suggest the cut is motivated in part by politics. Conservatives control the agencies of the 15 million-member SBC, including Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. The 2.5 million-member Texas convention, the largest contributor to the SBC, is controlled by moderates.

The Mississippi Convention will consider a change in the way it funds home missions within the state. Under the proposal, the state will continue to send 37% of its unified budget to the Southern Baptist Convention but will deduct from that portion about \$250,000 to pay for home missions work in Mississippi.

That is about how much of \$8.6 million Mississippi Baptists send to national ministries that would normally come back to Mississippi from the SBC Home Mission Board for jointly funded projects. In the new arrangement, the HMB would no longer send money to Mississippi but also would lose any control over home missions work in the state.

The Atlanta-based HMB would receive the same amount from Mississippi in 1996 as in 1995 because of a budget surplus anticipated at the end of the year, said Bill Causey, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director.

Oklahoma Baptists will also consider cutting back on their gifts to the SBC. A proposed budget calls for reducing by 2% the SBC's share of the Cooperative Program, to 40%. If the budget is adopted, Oklahoma would give about \$140,000 less to the SBC.

### Cancellation notice

The GA Day scheduled for Nov. 11 at Blue Mountain College has been cancelled. For more information on future GA Day events, contact the Woman's Missionary Union at (601) 968-3800 or the GA Day office in Jackson, (800) 748-1651.



## NOBTS search finds presidential nominee

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The culmination of a year-long search, trustees of New Orleans Seminary will vote at a special called meeting Nov. 8-9 for a new president. However, the trustees' search committee is not divulging the candidate's name, waiting to introduce the person to the full 40-member board of trustees followed by a vote.

## Seminary presents mass choir

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — At a time when harmony seems to be available only through music, an interracial, interdenominational, and intergenerational mass choir joined together on the campus of New Orleans Seminary to present the musical worship experience, "God With Us," on Oct. 17.

"This musical ('God With Us') is being used across our country in an extraordinary way to touch thousands of lives," said Sidney Buckley, chairman of the seminary's division of church music ministries.

Accompanied by members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the mass choir was composed of men, women, and young people from 40 churches in the New Orleans area, and the Gulf Coast areas of Louisiana

and Mississippi.

The presentation of "God With Us" was under the direction of Ken Gabrielse, assistant professor of church music at New Orleans Seminary. Narrator was **Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.** Worship leader was Mark Foley, vice president for student development and institutional research and planning at New Orleans Seminary.

The highlight of the evening, Buckley said, seemed to be when Smith read the names of Jesus. "As Dr. Smith finished the reading, the audience on their own initiative rose to their feet and burst forth in applause," Buckley said. "The spirit of the Lord was present in a powerful way."

# Transition is key concern for Brotherhood Commission trustees

MEMPHIS (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention restructuring and transition remained a primary topic of concern among trustees of the Brotherhood Commission as they met Oct. 20-21 at the commission's offices in Memphis.

The Brotherhood Commission is slated to merge with the Home Mission Board and Radio and Television Commission into the North American Mission Board. The merger was proposed by the Executive Committee's Program and Structure Study Committee (PSSC) in their "Covenant for a New Century" during the SBC in June and adopted by convention messengers. The merger will be official pending a second vote on bylaw changes during the SBC next June in New Orleans.

Brotherhood Commission President James Williams told trustees during his report, "It has been a very difficult six months for us, with the roller coaster-type moments that come along the way. Yet we have recognized that typically happens when you are bombarded with the kind of change

that is out before us."

Recalling events leading to the adoption of the PSSC report, Williams said, "It was in the April trustee meeting that you trustees responded to the Program and

*"... This is where I can't move ahead. I'm sorry. I cannot make decisions to dismantle this agency with a gentle and quiet spirit...."*

*— a Brotherhood Commission trustee*

Structure Study Committee. They had asked the agencies to embrace that report. You chose not to embrace the report and expressed four major concerns.

"I appreciate the integrity with which that was done, the spirit with which that was done, and thank you again for all that represented," he told trustees, adding that the SBC Executive Committee "did not respond to your concerns officially or formally."

The action of the Program and Structure Study Committee also prompted one resignation among trustee ranks before fellow trustees

encouraged him to reconsider.

Speaking prior to the president's dialogue on Saturday, the trustee said he was submitting his resignation because "I feel maybe we've been led along on a chain and they're asking us to fulfill their agenda. One of the things that has disturbed me is the fact that they came and made this decision that this is what they were going to do and did not ever once let the agencies know," he said. "They did not consult, they did not ask for insight into the formulation of plans."

Speaking to Williams, he said, "You've asked us also as trustees to help advance the kingdom of God by accepting this and moving forward with a cooperative spirit. That's wonderful. I applaud those who will do that.... But, Jim, this is where I can't move ahead. I'm sorry."

"I cannot make decisions to dismantle this agency with a gentle and quiet spirit," he said, voicing concern that "what we say doesn't make any difference."

### OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930



## Together again

What do Liberia, Brazil, and Chile have in common? Ask one of these three missionaries. Between them, they have served a total of 96 years with the Foreign Mission Board since 1963. That was the year **Margaret Fairburn** (from left) of Tylertown (who served in Liberia), Mary Witt of Knoxville, Tenn. (Brazil), and Clara Brincefield of Brentwood, Tenn. (Chile), were appointed as missionaries. That was also the year they met at a missionary orientation conference before going to their respective fields of service. A September World Missions Festival at Mount Zion Church, Jonesboro, Ga., brought the three veteran missionaries together again for the first time since 1963. All three are on their last furlough prior to retirement from the Foreign Mission Board after serving 32 years each.

## Fairview, Itawamba, marks 150

Fairview Church, Itawamba, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Nov. 3.

Squire Parsons, a native of West Virginia, will sing at 6:30 p.m. Parsons was named Favorite Gospel Songwriter in 1986, 1992, 1993, and 1994 by **Singing News**.

Also appearing on the program will be Paid In Full of New Albany. A love offering will be taken.

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**  
Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Box 501, Fulton, MS 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

**We remodel & paint**



### ALL NEW CHAMPION CRUSADER

14 Passenger Full Size Bus  
NO CDL REQUIRED

**Bus Supply Company**

Hwy. 98 East

(601) 684-2900

McComb, MS

1-800-748-8681



Available in 20 ft. to 33 ft. models  
(12 to 38 Passenger)

### Church Buses Rental Buses

(New and Used)

- We buy used buses
- Guaranteed buy-back program

Call **Henry Headden**  
Carpenter Bus Sales, Inc.  
Brentwood, Tenn.

1-(800)-370-6180

1-(615)-371-6180

## AWESOME LORD!

1  
8  
0  
0  
4  
7  
5  
0  
8  
1  
9

Oasis '96

**Fort Walton Beach FLORIDA**

June 17-21  
& 24-28, '96

Featuring:

- Tom Tufts
- Al Holley
- Clay Crosse
- Custer & Hoose
- East to West

**AIR-CONDITIONED Auditorium**

**\$189**  
with  
MEALS

**\$129**  
without  
MEALS

Lodging &  
program fees  
included

**\$10 OFF** if  
registrations  
postmarked  
by May 1!

**Mountain Top Conferences**

ministry of  
phil waldrep  
evangelistic  
association

Our company proudly retains the name of our founder, **L.L. Sams**, a Southern Baptist pastor.



It has been our privilege to serve Southern Baptists since 1898.

- stained glass • carpet •
- pews • pulpit furniture •
- educational furniture •
- painting • more than 290 complete CHURCH RENOVATIONS

**FREE BROCHURES**

1-800-537-4723

P. O. Box 1430, Waco, TX 76703



# HOUSE TOPS

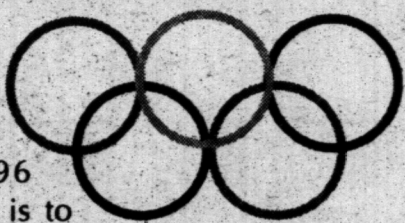
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 2, 1995

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

## OLYMPICS: WMU SPECIAL PROJECT

Will your church WMU help provide 15,000 hospitality bags for the '96 Olympics? The goal is to have every WMU member involved. Set a goal and get together for a fellowship of "stuffing the bags." Let's welcome the world to Athens, Georgia.



Talk with your church staff and enlist their support for participation in the Olympic project. Set a goal for the number of bags you will provide. Publicize the project and enlist church wide participation by delegating responsibilities for items to be collected.

Each bag should include five items from the following list: Band-Aids, sunscreen, peanuts, mints, personal packs of tissue, moist towelettes, granola bars, or lip balm. Remember to check the expiration date on food items. Products must be good through August 1996.

If you wish to include a tract or scripture portion, AIM '96 recommends the use of the official Olympics tract, "Interactive Pocket Guide '96," which may be ordered from the Home Mission Board, 1-800-634-2462. This is a priced item. You are not required to include a tract; on-site volunteers will be available for distributing this guide or New Testaments, if they are not in the hospitality bags.

Collected items are to be placed in special imprinted drawstring bags available from Mississippi WMU for 10 cents each. Send 10 cents per bag (one check made payable to Mississippi WMU, designated '96 Hospitality Bags). Orders, along with payment, are being accepted now. The bags should arrive around January 1.

Begin collecting items and when your bags arrive, fill them with five of the eight items you have collected. If you have a volunteer group going to Athens, please take the bags with you. If you are not going, mail the filled bags to: **WMU, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201, Attn: Jan Cossitt**. The bags will be transported to Athens in July.

## TWO GREAT MUSIC CAMPS FOR CHILDREN YOUNG MUSICIANS' CAMPS, 1996

*for those who have finished grades 4-6*

- Plan to send your children this summer for an experience they will always remember.
- They will grow spiritually and musically through worship and classes designed for their ages.

### Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

June 25



Guest Music Director  
Eileen Straw  
Music Specialist  
Atlanta



Camp Pastor  
Steven Evans  
Minister of Youth  
Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson

### Blue Mountain College

July 22-26



Guest Music Director  
Nan Grantham  
FBC, Bossier City



Camp Pastor  
James Lewis  
Pastor, FBC, New Albany

**Register for Gulfshore through Gulfshore beginning March 1, 1996.**  
**Register for Blue Mountain camp through the Church Music Department beginning March 1, 1996.**

Program Information available through the Church Music Department  
Sarah Talley, Preschool/Children Contract Consultant  
1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800



# Let's pray this day... November 8-30

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

				for missionaries Philip and Sheila Marshall in Thailand, especially for Thai people to respond to Christ	for safety for missionaries	for Mississippi youth and adults who will be ministering at the '96 Summer Olympics
					10	11
for women and men who are teaching the Foreign Mission study this month	for life-long knowledge about Jesus	for missionaries Hal and Lou Ann Lee as they prepare to begin their final furlough in December	for BSU directors who have opportunities to share Christ with many young adults	for Bill Causey and his heavy load of responsibilities	for the jobless in our state	for elderly who are sick and lonely
	13	14	15	16	17	18
for missionaries Charles and Suzie Collins in Suriname as they try to encourage national church leaders	for all pastors in Mississippi	for children of our foreign and home missionaries who are in college in the states	for the privilege of having a Bible	for grateful hearts and for God's care and blessings	for the opportunities to minister to people during this season	for churches where members are diligently preparing Christmas music
	20	21	22	23	24	25
for churches in final preparation for observing the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions	for MK Adam Graves as he witnesses to friends on his basketball team	for pastors as they help us through the holiday season	for those confined to nursing homes	for great response of Mississippi Baptists to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering		
	27	28	29	30		



## JANUARY

The numbers indicate the day of the month and the year of birth. For instance, 4-76 means January 4, 1976.

- 4-76 — Mr. Benjamin "Ky" Johnston, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4694, Clinton, MS 39058; Parents: F. Vincent & Sharon B., Conference/Encampment, BRAZIL
- 4-78 — Mr. Joshua D. Metts, Lynx Air/Sd Dr., P. O. Box 407052, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33340; Parents: Joe M., Jr. & Angela T., General Evangelism, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
- 8-76 — Miss Kathleen Hallmark, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Mississippi Hall 310A, Booneville, MS 38829; Parents: BJ & Joann, DOM, Triangle Association, MONTANA
- 8-84 — Miss Emily Smith, Casilla 223, 8300 Neugen, ARGENTINA; Parents: Steve & Vidonia Smith, General Evangelism
- 13-82 — Mr. Scott Corey, 7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520; Parents: Charles & Patricia, Field Personnel Assistance
- 15-83 — Miss Chesed A. (Chesi) Dent, #7 Jalan Pelangi, Singapore 1026, REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE; Parents: Donald T. & Anne M., Associate to the Area
- 19-73 — Mr. Jason Cox, Mississippi College, P. O. Box 4497, Clinton, MS 39058; Parents: J. Larry & Cheryl, Associate to Area Director (Europe), SERVE IN GERMANY
- 19-80 — Miss E. May Parker, 28 Tremena Gardens, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 5QH, UNITED KINGDOM; Parents: Jeffrey R. & Shiela T., General Evangelism
- 22-86 — Mr. Benjamin J. Bailey, 116 Church Street, Centerville, MS 31028; Parents: Alvin & Elizabeth, Music Promotion
- 24-77 — Miss Amy McCain, Mississippi College, P O Box 4771, Clinton, MS 39058; Parents: Donald R. & Rose M., Publications Coordination, SERVE IN PORTUGAL
- 26-89 — Miss Hannah Michelle Ray, 3-A, L. Tolstogo St., Kiev-4, 252004, UKRAINE; Parents: Michael D. & Linda R., Religious Education
- 29-84 — Mr. Neil A. Green, Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA; Parents: Algie L. & Emily G., General Evangelism
- 31-80 — Mr. Joshua A. Racey, Casilla 50-D, Temuco, CHILE; Parents: Michael D. & Annette E., Theological Education

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

#### HONDURAS—

Date: January 8-12, 1996  
Place: Bagope Baptist Camp  
What: GA & RA Camp  
Need: Team of four persons to direct craft time for 200, three to four hours each day  
Cost: \$660.00 (includes airfare from New Orleans, housing, meals, and local transportation)

#### VENEZUELA—

Date: June 15-28, 1996  
Place: Rubio, Venezuela  
What: Mission Meeting  
Need: Team of 14 people to lead VBS for MKs  
Cost: \$1,200.00 (includes airfare from Jackson, housing meals and local transportation)

If interested, please contact Jan Cossitt, WMU Consultant, 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, (601) 968-3800.

# HOUSE TOPS



Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth  
1996 Choir & band

• Auditions •

**FEBRUARY**

- 1 FBC, Biloxi — 5-8 pm
- 2 Central BC, McComb — 5-8 pm
- 3 University BC, Hattiesburg — 9 am-2 pm
- 13 Baptist Building, Jackson — 5-8 pm
- 22 FBC, Greenwood — 5-8 pm
- 26 North Oxford BC, Oxford — 5-8 pm
- 27 Harrisburg BC, Tupelo — 5-8 pm
- 29 Emmanuel BC, Columbus — 5-8 pm

**MARCH**

- 2 Baptist Building, Jackson — 9am-2 pm  
(instrumental audition on this date, also)

**Auditions will include:**

- A solo (no tapes)
- Sightreading
- Tonal Memory
- Singing their voice part from a hymn

**Audition Fee:** \$3.00 per person

**Registration Deadline:** One week prior to audition

Contact the Church Music Department for further details on these auditions

# SUIT PROJECT

## What is it?

For over 31 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.



Mississippi Baptists say  
"Merry Christmas"

to Pastors in  
Alaska, Iowa, and Minnesota-Wisconsin  
Cost \$130 per suit

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Baptist Men's groups, individuals, churches, etc.,  
can send their gifts payable to:

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
Attention: Brotherhood Department,  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Designate on your check: Suit Project

Sponsored by the Brotherhood Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

# 1996 Church Orchestra Festival

Saturday, February 17  
Crossgates Baptist Church • Brandon

### Guidelines

1. Minister of Music and instrumentalists are invited to attend and listen or play in the Mass Orchestra.
2. All percussion equipment will be available at the church.

**Clinician:**  
**Bruce Zeiger**  
Former trumpet soloist with  
the Air Force Band

### Schedule

8:30 Registration  
9:00 Guest Orchestra Plays  
9:30 Guest Orchestra Plays  
10:00 Guest Orchestra Plays  
10:30 Break  
11:00 Mass Orchestra  
12:30 Dismissal

(\$20 per orchestra plus \$2 per individual for orchestras having eleven or more members.  
Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

Registration Deadline February 7, 1996

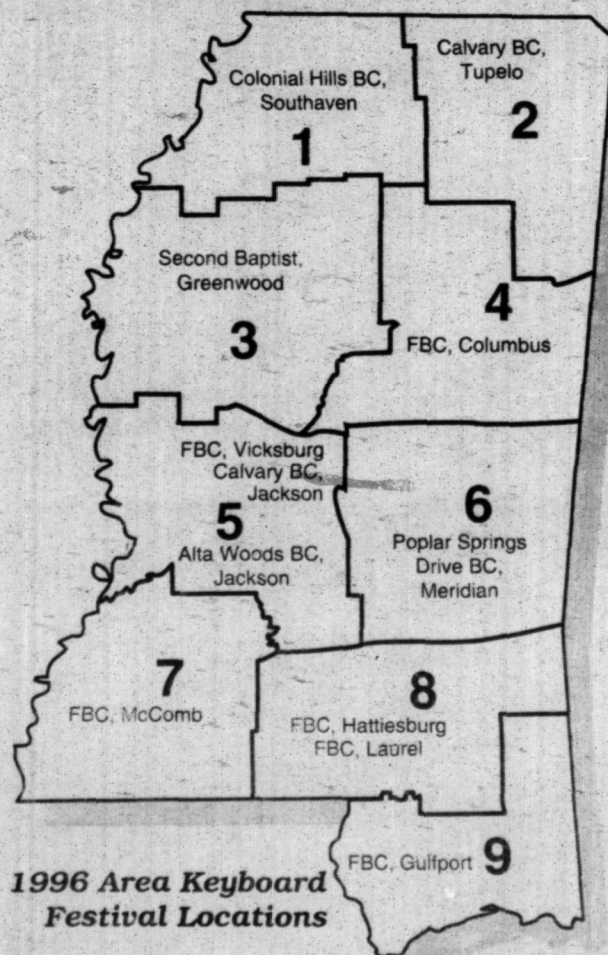
For registration information write to:  
Church Music Department • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530



**S**tart planning now to have the children and youth from your church and studio participate in the 1996 area keyboard festivals. Have them registered by December 20, 1995.

## 1996 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

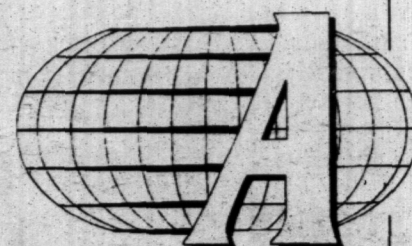
AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE
<b>Thursday, January 25, 1996, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 2	Calvary Baptist, Tupelo, 501 West Main	Sandy Coutoumanous	H-840-2200
		David Prevost	C-842-3338
Area 4	FBC, Columbus, 202 7th St. North	Wayne Jackson	C-328-3915
Area 5	Calvary Baptist, Jackson, 1300 West Capitol St.	Gil Powell	C-354-1300
Area 7	FBC, McComb, 1700 Delaware Ave.	Carol Watts	C-684-2971
		Mark Moore	
Area 8	FBC, Hattiesburg, 510 W. Pine St.	Kathy Vail	H-264-7443
Area 8	FBC, Laurel, 605 Fifth St.	Earline Carter	C-649-5711
<b>Friday, January 26, 1996, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.</b>			
Area 9	FBC, Gulfport, 40 53rd St.	Tammy Turnage	H-896-5566
<b>Saturday, January 27, 1996, 9:30 a.m. - Noon</b>			
Area 1	Colonial Hills BC, Southaven, 7701 Hwy 51 North	Elizabeth Cothorn	H-781-2582
Area 3	Second Baptist, Greenville, 1407 East Reed Road	Curtis Hatcher	C-335-3343
Area 5	FBC, Vicksburg, 1607 Cherry Street	Jim Hess	C-636-2493
Area 5	Alta Woods BC, Jackson, 168 Colonial Drive	Wyndy South	H-957-3615
		Bob Jones	C-372-8651
Area 6	Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian 4032 Poplar Springs Drive	Harry Tillery	C-485-5106



**Start Mapping Your Route!**

## QUEEN'S COURT

Camp Garaywa



November 10-11, 1995

Friday 4:00 p.m. - Saturday Lunch

Acteens Involved in StudiAct  
(Queen Level and Above)

\$23.00 per person

(includes meals, lodging, crafts and limited insurance)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Sheets or sleeping bag, pillowcases, towels, casual clothes, comfortable shoes, Bible, paper and pencil, personal items

**PROGRAM:** Includes Music, Special Concert, Fellowship, Conferences, and participation in a mission project

..... REGISTRATION FORM .....

### QUEEN'S COURT

November 10-11, 1995  
Camp Garaywa

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Association \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Person sending in registration \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ \$23.00 per person = \_\_\_\_\_ \$ amount enclosed

Make checks payable to *Camp Garaywa*

Mail to: **Camp Garaywa**  
P. O. Box 1278  
Clinton, MS 39060

## ONE VOICE... IN CONCERT

The Music Ambassadors of the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
will be in concert at

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1995**  
**7 p.m.**

Call Church Music at 1-800-748-1651 (or in Jackson at 968-3800) for more information.

# HOUSE TOPS



## Just for the Record

**Avera (Greene):** Nov. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. noon fellowship lunch; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Grady B. Parker, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Roger and Sharon Blackwell, Runnelstown, music; Ken Ball, interim pastor.

**Shiloh (Carroll):** Nov. 12-15;



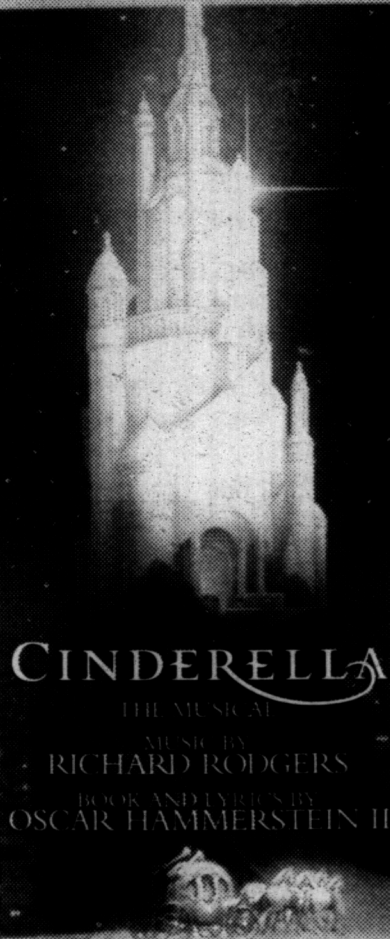
### PEWS

Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering  
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights  
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples  
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

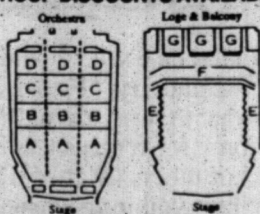
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S



PRESENTED BY  
W. KESSLER LTD.  
**TUES., NOVEMBER 21**  
AND  
**WED., NOVEMBER 22**  
7:30 P.M.  
THALIA MARA HALL  
(Jackson Municipal Auditorium)

Single Ticket Prices	
Orchestra.....	A \$37.50
	B \$35.00
	C \$27.50
	D \$20.00
Loge.....	E \$32.50
Lower Balcony.....	F \$27.50
Upper Balcony.....	G \$18.00

### GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE



BOX OFFICE OPEN M-F/9-5  
CHARGE TICKETS BY PHONE  
**960-1535**  
AFTER HOURS AND WEEKENDS  
**981-1847**

Sunday, 11 a.m. service with Brian King speaking; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m., Chaplain Gary Bement, Columbus Air Force Base, speaking; Doug Warren, pastor of Shiloh, music.

**Neely (Greene):** Nov. 6-10; Sunday, old-fashioned day; 7 p.m. nightly; Greg Thomas, Gulfport, evangelist; J.R. Walley, Rocky Creek, music; Charles Garner, pastor.

**Trinity, Pearl:** Nov. 5-8; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; local pastors and music directors each night: Sunday, B. Wayne Long, speaker, and Bill Haas, music, Pearson Church; Monday, Rob Burns, speaker, and Richard Sparks, music, Eastside Church; Tuesday, Wade Chappel, speaker, and Richard Sullivan, music, Grandview Church; Wednesday, Steve Jackson, speaker, and Eric McNair, music, McLaurin Church; Kenny Goff, pastor.

**First, McLaurin:** Nov. 5-8; Sunday 11 a.m.; lunch 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m. George Berger, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Sam Clemts, McLaurin, music; Carlis Braswell, pastor.

**Mississippi Woman's College** alumnae will hold a reunion Nov. 11 on the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg as part of its homecoming events. MWC is the predecessor of William Carey College. Also, classes 1955, '65, '70, '75, and '85 will meet and a barbecue dinner will be served after each meeting. For more information contact the Alumni Office at (601) 582-6107.

**Ballet Magnificat**, the first full-time professional ballet com-

## Revival Results

**First, Olive Branch:** Oct. 7-9; 48-Hour Crusade; Rodney Gage, evangelist, spoke Saturday night, three times on Sunday, and on Monday night; activities included community-wide cookout, speeches in two local high schools, community-wide luncheon, pizza blast for youths; 200 decisions for Christ; P.J. Scott, pastor.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**PART-TIME YOUTH** Minister needed in small Baptist church in Kemper County. Send resume and cover letter to: Blackwater Baptist Church, c/o Youth Minister Search Committee, Rt. 1, Box 301 A, Daleville, MS 39326; (601) 8221.

**CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS:** Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

**HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS,** Meridian. Design, Fabrication, Repair. MURPHY ROBE SALES. Call (601) 483-3171 or 1-800-368-2705.

**PASSENGER VANS** for private and church groups. From \$54.95 per day/limited free miles/ 7- to 15-seat. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

**ATTENTION! BI-VOCATIONAL** ministers and music directors: Supplement your church income. Earn \$500-1,000 per week with American Protective. Leads furnished, no overnight travel or cash investment — We train you. Call (601) 582-9000 for confidential interview.

**LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH,** Flowood, Miss., is looking for a full-time Minister of Education and Outreach. Please send resume to:

Liberty Baptist Church, 5199 Lakeland Dr., Flowood, MS 39208 or call (601) 992-0345 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**CHOIR ROBES & accessories,** pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**CHOIR ROBES — CFI —** pews, new & used. Baptisries & steeples. Authorized Dealer, MS. & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

**YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED** in New Orleans, Branson, Atlanta, Orlando, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Buffalo, for 1996 summer mission projects. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For information, costs, call Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, (800) 299-0385.

**BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR.** Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1526 Gardner Blvd., Columbus, MS 39702; 1-800-349-2882.

**CHOCTAW BAPTIST** Association will be accepting sealed bids until Nov. 15, 1995, on a Ricoh FT 2260 copier in good condition. For more information, call (601) 285-6296. We reserve the right to reject any or all bids.

pany ever formed with the purpose of sharing the gospel, will perform on Nov. 4 at the J.J. Knox Gymnasium in Winona. The performance, sponsored by First Church and Scotland Church, will begin at 7 p.m. and feature several works from the company's repertoire. Contact Tammie Worsham at (601) 283-1118 for more information.

**The Music Ministry of Calvary Church,** Tupelo, will celebrate the installation of its new Austin Pipe Organ with a dedication service and dedicatory recital on Nov. 12 at 3 p.m. The organists will be Edward Ludlow of Blue Mountain and Sandy Coutoumanos, staff organist at Calvary Church. Ludlow is associate professor of Organ and Church Music at Blue Mountain College. Coutoumanos, who is in

her 26th year as a church organist with 17 of those years in service at Calvary Church, received her degree in organ from Blue Mountain College. David Prevost is minister of music.

**Harold Bryson,** Mississippi College (MC) Christian Studies professor, will deliver the 1995 Howard E. Spell Lectureship on Nov. 6-7 on the MC campus. Bryson will also teach a course for pastors on the book of Amos, Nov. 7 in the Rogers Student Center.

**Woman's Missionary Union of Mississippi Association** will hold a day of prayer on Nov. 6, beginning at 9:45 a.m. at Berwick Church, Liberty. Guest speaker will be Margaret Whitten Drummond, Southern Baptist missionary to Managua, Nicaragua.

## Homecomings

**Bogue Chitto, Bogue Chitto:** Nov. 12; 110th anniversary; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship services, 11; Darnell Archie and Thomas Moak, guests; fellowship meal, noon; afternoon music with "Jubilation," Magnolia; Keith Wallace, pastor.

**Calvary, Durant:** Nov. 5; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner, noon; 1 p.m. singing; B.A. Conway, Petal, guest speaker; B.J. Jenkins, Brandon, music; Bill Ferrand, pastor.

**Macedonia, Meridian:** Nov. 5;

135th anniversary; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; Wayne Edwards, Lauderdale director of missions, guest speaker; Bolie Puckett and the Gospel Revelations in concert, 1:30 p.m.; Jason Gross, pastor.

**First, Nettleton:** Nov. 12; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner, noon; 1 p.m. singing; Bendon Ginn, Brookhaven, guest speaker; former ministers of music will provide music; George C. Johnson, pastor.

**Bissell, Tupelo:** Nov. 12; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; dedication service for remodeled sanctuary, 11 a.m.; followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon singing.

**REYNOLDS-MALATESTA FUNERAL HOME**  
Natchez, MS 442-7726  
Complete Funeral Plan — \$2,990  
Cremation Plan — \$1,325  
**1-800-650-2763**  
Pre-Arrange Today  
Serving the entire State of Miss.

**imperial**  
PEWS—PULPITS  
Manufacturer Serving the Nation, Since 1960  
1-800-234-6624

## Finding the best insurance is a matter of dollars & sense. Church Mutual can help.

Price is an important consideration when choosing coverage for your church. But value is the real test of a policy — the crucial combination of cost, coverage and service that's invaluable in times of need. For almost 100 years, Church Mutual has specialized in giving outstanding insurance value.

Over 6,900 Southern Baptist churches are currently insured by Church Mutual. Their association with us began with a free, on-site evaluation of their insurance needs. It's the best way we know to ensure the outstanding value that's made us the leading insurer of churches in the nation. Request an evaluation for your church by calling us toll free today.

In Mississippi, call 800-525-4359.

© 1995 Church Mutual Insurance Company



The Specialist



## Uniform

### A gospel for everyone



By Andy Brasher  
Acts 13-14

Many years ago, I attended a revival deep in the rolling hills of west Tennessee. The old preacher approached the pulpit in this small country church in Henderson County, and made this statement: "The good thing is, the good news is for everyone."

In all my years of attending church, I had never heard it put quite like that. Yet, what that old preacher said was indeed true. The good news is good for everyone!

As Christians, we are called by the Spirit to witness to others and share the gospel with all people. This is not a special calling, but a universal calling each Christian should do. Without a doubt, some individuals are specifically called to be pastors, teachers, musicians, etc., but the calling to proclaim the good news is the responsibility of every Christian, regardless of race, sex, age, or handicap. The question is, are you sharing the good news with those around you who need to hear it most? In this week's lesson, Paul and Barnabas do just that.

The Holy Spirit directed the Antioch church to separate out Barnabas and Paul for a special task, and that task was to be missionaries to the Jews and Gentiles. The church in response to God's revelation fasted, prayed, and laid hands on Paul and Barnabas, sending them away as the church's first duly appointed missionaries (13:1-3). The laying on of hands does not imply ordination as such, but a commission from the church to act on their behalf.

As the Spirit led, Paul, Barnabas, and their assistant John Mark, boldly preached the good news throughout the synagogues in Cyprus. During their tour in Cyprus, they met their first opposition to the gospel (13:4-12). As we know, opposition is nothing new to the Christian. The Evil One is unceasing in his attempt to upset and halt the proclamation of the good news. Even after 19 centuries, his efforts have not abated. Neither should ours!

Paul's sermon in Antioch of Pisidia sets the standard in blending Jewish history with the history of salvation. Paul intricately weaves his sermon carefully around Old Testament characters and events showing exclusively that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God, the Resurrected One, and the Forgiver of sins. Many who had gathered at the synagogue begged for Paul to continue his preaching on the grace of God (13:13-43).

On the next Sabbath, many Jews repudiated the teaching of Paul. The more prominent Jews contradicted the gospel in favor of the Law of Moses. Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly and declared, "Since you repudiate it (the gospel), and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles." The Gentiles, who had gathered outside the synagogue, rejoiced greatly and believed unto eternal life. The Jews drove the trio out of their district (13:44-52).

As their witness increased, so did their opposition. Evidently, the word had spread from Antioch of Pisidia to Iconium about their preaching in that city. In Iconium, many believed as the gospel was proclaimed. The unbelieving Jews deliberately polluted the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the traveling trio. Soon Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark were forced to leave due to threats on their life (14:17).

In Lystra, the angry multitudes of Antioch of Pisidia and Iconium stormed the city, dragged Paul out, stoned him, and left him for dead. However, as the disciples stood around him, Paul rose up and returned to the city. The next day he departed with Barnabas (14:8-20).

After a few more stops, the trio returned to home base, Antioch of Syria, rehearsed the events of their journey, and told of the great things God had done (14:21-28).

**Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.**

## Bible Book

### A strategy for success



By Larry McDonald  
Nehemiah 4

Lech Walesa, the courageous Polish labor leader who became president of his country, said this about leadership: "To be a leader means to have determination. It means to be resolute inside and outside, with ourselves and with others." Charles Swindoll defined determination as "faith for the long haul." Warren Weirsbe said the major thrust of the book of Nehemiah was "Be determined!"

In Nehemiah's life we see this determination being lived out as he experienced great success in the middle of difficult circumstances. One would think everybody would be overjoyed at the rebuilding of the wall around Jerusalem. But that was not the case.

Sandballat and Tobiah arose as enemies of Nehemiah. They taunted Nehemiah and sought to rally other individuals against him (vv. 1-2). This opposition was described as "angry and greatly incensed" as they ridiculed the Jewish workers.

This opposition drove Nehemiah to prayer (vv. 4-6). Nehemiah's prayer concerned the contemptible treatment they were receiving at the hands of their enemies. He then asked God to deal with them in a severe way because they were opposing the work of God.

Did this opposition cease? No. Did Nehemiah stop the work of God? No! Sandballat, Tobiah, and their other cohorts became "very angry" and began to plot against Jerusalem to fight and stir up trouble (vv. 7-9). Nehemiah took three steps in response to the opposition.

First, he again prayed. Nehemiah knew he had to have the help of God in facing this opposition.

Second, he posted a guard to be ready for an attack. He had a strategy to protect his workers and families which he implemented.

Third, he continued to work. The opposition did not sidetrack him from God's purpose. He had taken appropriate steps. His attitude was: "God's work must continue."

Nehemiah then addressed the people concerning the situation (vv. 13-15). He told them not to be afraid. He reminded them of their God who was "great and awesome." He told them to be ready to fight for their families and homes.

When the enemies found out that God's people were prepared to face them, they called off the battle. This opposition was all talk and no action because of the preparedness of God's people. Nehemiah and the Jewish people returned to their work of rebuilding the walls.

I read about a couple of boys who went around the neighborhood looking for jobs shoveling snow. They saw a man shoveling his driveway and asked if they could do the job.

"Can't you see I'm already half finished?" he said.

"That's why we asked," the boys explained. "You see, we get most of our work from people who got started but weren't able to finish."

Often in our churches, we begin to follow God's direction. Opposition comes. We stop half finished because of the opposition. God's work suffers. How much better it would be if we followed the example of Nehemiah who had a determination to continue following God's plan even in the middle of difficult circumstances.

**McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.**

## Life and Work

### The virtue of forgiveness



By Bob Rogers  
Genesis 37, 50

"Profiles in Virtue" is the theme of our November lessons. In October we studied New Testament answers to questions about Christian living. Now we turn to four Old Testament examples of godly character.

Joseph's story has all the elements of an exciting novel. The story is told in Genesis chapters 37, 39-45, and 50. Our study will focus on the beginning of the story in Chapter 37, and the ending in Chapter 50.

Joseph was the son of Rachel and Jacob (Israel). Jacob had two wives, Rachel and Leah, and each wife had a maid-servant: Zilpah for Leah, and Bilhah for Rachel. Jacob had sons by all four of them. Just because the Bible reports that polygamy was practiced by the father of the Hebrew people does not mean that polygamy was approved by God any more than the sexual escapades of Samson were approved just because he was a judge of Israel. (1 Tim. 3:2, 12 and Titus 1:6 endorse monogamy as a virtue.)

If anything, this story shows the problems of having multiple wives, because not only were Rachel and Leah jealous of one another, but so were their sons. Rachel was Jacob's favorite wife, and their son Joseph was Jacob's favorite son.

Genesis 37:2-4 gives two reasons why Joseph's brothers hated him: Joseph tattled on them and Jacob (Israel) showed favoritism by giving Joseph a "coat of many colours" (KJV) or "richly ornamented robe" (NIV).

According to Genesis 37:5-11, Joseph made matters worse by telling them that he had dreamed that they would all bow down to him. Although it was obnoxious, this dream foreshadowed what was to come.

When Joseph was sent to check on his brothers, they grabbed him and started to kill him, but instead sold him into slavery to Ishmaelite merchants (37:12-28), who took him to Egypt. These merchants are also called Midianites; both Ishmael and Midian were sons of Abraham, and apparently they had intermarried (16:15; 25:2).

Most of us know what Paul Harvey calls "the rest of the story." Joseph's brothers told Jacob that Joseph was dead (37:29-35), but actually he was sold to an Egyptian official named Potiphar (37:36). When Potiphar's wife falsely charged him with rape, Joseph was thrown into jail, where he met the king's cupbearer and baker (chapters 39-40).

When Joseph correctly interpreted their dreams, it eventually led to Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream about seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph was put in charge of all Egypt, thus setting the stage for Joseph's brothers to come to Egypt in search of food. After testing them, Joseph revealed himself and brought his entire family to Egypt to live (chapters 40-45).

Joseph had told his brothers that he saw God's purpose in all that had happened: "Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (45:5).

Nevertheless, they feared that Joseph's forgiveness would only last until their father died. After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers sent him word that before he died, their father said Joseph should forgive them. Then his brothers came into Joseph's presence, threw themselves face down before him, and said, "We are your slaves" (50:15-18).

This was Joseph's opportunity. He could have done anything to his brothers, and everyone would have said he was justified. But he proved to be a bigger man than that.

Joseph reassured his brothers with these words: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (compare Rom. 8:28). At last they knew that his forgiveness was real.

Joseph's forgiveness pointed to the One who would eventually look down from the cross and say, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34), the One who taught us to pray for forgiveness in proportion to our own forgiveness of others (Matt. 6:12).

How about you? Has someone hurt you long ago and you still hold on to it? Let God have the hurt and let it go, as Joseph did.

**Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.**



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27,  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION OF  
SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND  
CHILDREN INC.

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**JULY 1, 1995-  
JULY 31, 1995  
MEMORIALS**

Mrs. Mitch (Mabel Missouri) Cody

Mr. Billy & Family Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. L. R. Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Gray  
Mr. & Mrs. James Watson  
Ms. Alagene Wingo  
Mrs. Ruby A. Sherman

Merle Cole

Mrs. Kathryn Cooper

Jeff Coleman

Tim and Amy Raper

Mr. James Collins

Mr. & Mrs. L. T. Wade Jr.

Mr. James W. Whitten Jr.

Mrs. Frances Collins

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mrs. Janette Couch

Mrs. Joe Springer

Mrs. Irene Coulter

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Joe Courtney

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Speed

Mr. Billy Crook

The Myrick Family

Mr. Luther Currie

Ms. L. Zell Thompson

Mrs. Moree Curtis

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fulgham

Natalie Daniels

Eastwood Baptist Church

Mrs. Ardis Daves

Mr. & Mrs. L. P. Cochran

Mr. Paul Davis

Mrs. Rubenia S. Hardin

Mr. & Mrs. R. M. Lowe

Mr. Leroy Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Ward Jackson

Mrs. Clemis P. Davis

Mr. James W. Forbes

Mrs. Peggy Thornhill

Mr. Russell Dearman

Mr. Danny R. Gregory

Mrs. Eva Deaton

Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.

Henry Love Dodd

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

James Theron Dorrrough

Joel and Shirley Hale

Louise Hale

Havis and Nita LaPrade

Campbell Doty

Mrs. LaVonne L. Bishop

Mr. Thomas L. Duggan

Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox

Ms. Ida Mae McCoy

Mrs. Virginia C. Quarles

Dr. John Durr

Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman

Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Stewart

Jackson Veterinary Medical

Association

Forrest Edwards

Mrs. Fred & Family Burris

Mr. Grady Eldridge

The E. G. Palmer Family

Ollie G. Elkins

Mr. & Mrs. Billy B. Rawls

Mr. BoBo Faulkner

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. McDonald

Gibson Faxon

Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. McMurchy

Mrs. Carrie M. Fortenberry

Karen & Jerry Johnson

Mrs. Laverne Fountain

Mrs. LaVonne L. Bishop

Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis

Mr. Henry French

Siloam Baptist Church

M/M George McClintock and Family

Mr. Franklin Frisbee

Mrs. Lucille Bodie

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Holloway

Mr. James W. Whitten Jr.

Miss Addie Gary

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gary

Mrs. Laura Gentry

Yale Street Baptist Church

Mr. Fred Gibson

Mr. & Mrs. James G. Hutto

Dr. William B. Gifford

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gary

Mrs. Ben Gonla

Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Lucas Jr.

Mr. Edwin Gray

Country Creek Ministry

Mr. Henry Dan Green

Mrs. Emma Jo Smith

Dr. & Mrs. Carl Bozeman

Mr. H. W. Hardin

Mr. & Mrs. Terry H. Walters

Mrs. Mollie B. Hartzog

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lundy

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis McPhail

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mrs. Cindy Williams

Mr. Bruce Harvey

Mrs. Marilyn R. Harvey

Mr. Joe Harvey

Mr. & Mrs. Early Harvey

Mrs. Marilyn R. Harvey

Mrs. Gail Kirkland

Mr. Tommy Haskins

Mrs. Oliver W. Stubbs

Mrs. Estelle Heflin

Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Grantham

Guy P. Hendrix

Rufus & Shirley Childs

Mr. Al Herrington

Dr. & Mrs. James H. Brewer

Mr. & Mrs. Billy B. Rawls

Mr. W. F. Hester

Mr. & Mrs. James L. Hall

Mr. Irvin Hicks

Mrs. Mattie B. Flynt

Mr. Olin Hill

Graeber Brothers, Inc.

Gertie Lee Himes

James and Missy Hutto

Mrs. Ruth Holleman

Mrs. J. M. Lane

Mr. M. E. Hollowell

Ms. Patricia Walston

Mrs. Sarah Hopkins

Mrs. L. F. Angelo

Mr. Raymond Horton

Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Mitchell

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Springer

Mr. Raymond N. Houston

Miss Billie Jo Ashley

Christopher Harrison Cooper Hubbs

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark

Dr. & Mrs. Wendell Holmes

Mike and Jackie Davis

Mrs. Carl O. Haskins

Mr. Glen Milton

WMU, Pike Baptist Association

Mrs. James Sr. Huggins

Mr. & Mrs. Hubert T. Kendrick

Rev. Kenny Hunt

Mr. & Mrs. Mack P. King

Mr. John L. Hurt

Mr. & Mrs. Philip H. West

Mr. John Henry Jennings

Mr. & Mrs. John A. Long

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Castle

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Reddick

Mrs. Geneva Richardson

Morrison Heights Baptist Church

Mr. & Mrs. Elton Hardy

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Edward Lee

Mr. Howard Johnson

Median Adult SS, Harmony BC

Pamela Greathouse Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Foley Jr.

Mrs. Hugh Johnston

Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods

Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Jones

Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Jones

Mr. James Jones

Mr. Fred D. Evans Jr.

Mr. Woody Jones

Mrs. Hazel Flora

Mr. Bryce Jordan

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Knight

Josh E. Keith

Mrs. Lois A. Criswell

Mr. Melvin Kellicut

J. D. & Doris Brock

Bobby Kelly

Knocky and Roma Askew

Mr. Ed Khun, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Henry

Mr. John W. Kilpatrick

Mr. and Mrs. Elmo G. Stovall

Mrs. Bo King

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mrs. Mary Louise Klinek

Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Thetford

Mr. Steven Koonce

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs

Mr. Frank Kyle

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Champion

Mr. Glyn Allen Lamb

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Causey

Ms. Magdalene Leary

Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Millis

S. O. Lee, Jr.

Caviness Woodworking Company

Mrs. Edna Lee

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mrs. Aubra Dale Lenard

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cooke

Miss Becky Lewis

Mrs. Opal H. Green

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins

Dr. Arthur W. Lindsey, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Lon D. Pepper Sr.

James Linton

Mr. and Mrs. Hank Niemeyer

Mr. John Logan

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Rollins

Mrs. Vergie Lott

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Oswalt

Mr. Eugene Foster (Taw) Love

Mr. & Mrs. Walter P. McMurchy

Col. & Mrs. Robert W. McDonald

Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Murphy Jr.

Mrs. Gilda C. Matthews

Mr. & Mrs. Alton Barber

Mr. Dan Lowry

Mr. & Mrs. Billy Armstrong

Clarence Lum

Stanton Baptist Church

Mrs. Lena Mae Lyle

Mrs. Christelle W. Ashley

Mrs. Charlie Faye Lynchard

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Crochet

Mrs. Doris [REDACTED]

Mrs. Opal H. Green

Mr. C. J. Martin

North Greenwood BC

Mr. Ronnie Rodgers

Mrs. Katherine Rodgers

Mrs. Louise Stevens Massey

Mr. & Mrs. Don O. Baker

Mr. David May

Mr. & Mrs. Harry K. Woods

Mrs. Callie May

Mrs. Edress May

Mr. William Ellis McBunch

Mr. & Mrs. Ward Jackson

Mr. Joel W. McCaa

Dr. & Mrs. Prentiss G. Cox

Mrs. Nell McCartney

Mrs. Roy C. Hubbard

Mrs. John McEachin

Mr. R. T. McCool

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cooke

Ms. Frances Hooper McCrory

Mrs. Doris M. Archer

Murry McCullough

Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen

Dan McEachern

Mr. Grady L. Vance

Mrs. Ruth McGaugh

Mrs. Ruby G. Hollingsworth

Mrs. Liddy McPhail

Country Creek Ministry

Raymond McPherson

Toby and Buddy Mitchell

Mr. J. J. Meyers

Mrs. Essie Mae Meyers

Mrs. Sarah Miller

Arlington Heights BC

Mrs. U. B. Minies

Mrs. D. F. Foudren Jr.

Mr. Bill Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Bridges

Mrs. Marguerite Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Roberts

Mr. Albert Clay Morrison

Mr



# capsules

**BAPTIST WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER NOV. 6:** Baptist women around the world will gather Nov. 6 to observe the 47th Baptist Women's Day of Prayer. The annual event, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department, calls on Baptist women to pray for their Baptist sisters around the world, many of whom live under intense persecution because of their faith and in severe economic conditions. The prayer emphasis also challenges the women to give sacrificially to aid ministry efforts among the world's women. In 1994, the offering totalled \$430,000, half of which was forwarded to the BWA Women's Department for worldwide projects. The other half went to support ministries sponsored by the six continental unions. Information also may be obtained by contacting the BWA Women's Department at 6733 Curran St., McLean VA 22101-6005; phone (703) 790-8980.

**LEADERS SAY WELFARE CUTS UNDERMINE EFFORTS:** WASHINGTON (ABP) — Religious leaders said Oct. 19 that welfare cuts proposed in Congress would undermine programs to feed the poor and essentially offer "stones instead of bread" to hungry Americans. Anti-hunger lobby Bread for the World, joined by religious leaders from Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, and Lutheran organizations, delivered plates with stones to members of Congress. "We are struck by the relevance of Jesus' question, 'Is there anyone among you who if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?'" said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. "It is the height of irony for religio-political extremists to claim a Christian agenda, a pro-family program and vote against demonstrated successful provisions for poor children," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee. Bread for the World reported that 800 million people in the world are hungry and the United States ranks last of 21 industrialized nations in percentage of GNP going to foreign aid.

**ALCOHOL USE COSTS OVER \$100 BILLION:** NASHVILLE (BP) — The cost of alcohol use in America is staggering. Consider: The aftermath of alcohol use cost the United States more than \$100 billion in 1994, or \$404 for every man, woman, and child (Source: National Clearinghouse for Drug & Alcohol Information, Rockville, Md.); Alcohol is the greatest factor in contributing to crime, with police, judges, and prosecutors saying it is involved in at least 80% of crimes (Source: Louisville *Courier-Journal*); Alcohol is responsible for 68% of manslaughters, 54% of murders, and 48% of robberies (Source: National Clearinghouse); Each month, as many as 500,000 persons are victims of alcohol-related crime (Source: *Courier-Journal*); Violent crimes committed by people under the influence of alcohol have dramatic annual costs, including \$2 billion in medical care, \$8 billion in lost earnings and other costs, and \$48 billion in pain, suffering, and lost quality of life (Source: National Commission Against Drunk Driving); Every dollar spent treating alcoholics saves \$11 in costs associated with drinking (Source: *Courier-Journal*); During 1993 in Kentucky, alcohol was involved in 30% of traffic fatalities (Source: Kentucky Accidents Facts 1993). Information provided by Temperance League of Kentucky.

**IOWA BAPTISTS ESTABLISH STATE CONVENTION:** WINTERSSET, Iowa (BP) — Declaring that "Our Time Has Come," Iowa Baptists officially organized the Baptist Convention of Iowa during their annual meeting Oct. 20-21 at First Church of Winterset. More than 300 messengers and guests gathered for the historic event at the same church where the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship was established in 1972. Southern Baptist work began in Iowa in 1954 with the establishment of Fairview Church near Anamosa. Since then, Iowa Baptist work has grown to include 12,000 members in 103 churches and missions. In addition to Iowa Baptist leaders, program personnel included representatives from the Executive Committee, Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Annuity Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board. Next year's convention meeting will be Nov. 1-2 at Crestwood Church, Des Moines.

**BIBLE SUNDAY — ONE DAY, ONE HOPE, ONE WORD:** (NAPS) — On Nov. 19, thousands of churches throughout the United States will continue the tradition of celebrating Bible Sunday, with a noteworthy difference. "One Day, One Hope, One Word," this year's theme, reflects the hope that Christians everywhere will take one day of the year to support a Bible-sharing project. For the first time Bible Sunday participants can choose a distribution program to support: sharing the Scriptures for athletes and spectators at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta or offering Scripture to the people of China. During the Olympics, the goal is to distribute over 6 million Bibles and 450,000 Scripture portions, some of which the 16,000 athletes will take home with them. The second goal attempts to meet the needs of the church in China, which is growing so fast that presses can't print Bibles fast enough. To help churches celebrate Bible Sunday, the American Bible Society has developed special free Bible Sunday kits, with video tapes, sermon ideas, special activity sheets to involve children, a bulletin insert and poster, a Bible bank, some sheet music, and an audio tape. All these materials are free. For more information on Bible Sunday, call (800) 4-SUNDAY or write to News Bureau, American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

## Ski-jump tower is new home to one-of-a-kind Baptist church

CALGARY, Alberta — When a church meets in a ski-jump tower, the cliches which come to mind can be endless: "Church gets jump-start;" "New church rises above the rest;" "Taking Christianity to new heights;" "Oh, what a heavenly view."

Jeff Christopherson, pastor of the new "ski-jump church," doesn't mind the cliches because he knows the 90-Meter Tower, on the grounds of Canada Olympic Park (one of the venues of the Calgary 1988 Winter Olympics), is among the most

recognizable sites in the city.

"It always helps when people immediately know your location," Christopherson says. But the church's purpose is more than to be recognized for its unusual setting.

In a city where 83% of the people don't go to church, Christopherson wants to make worship services accessible and appealing to those who don't normally attend.

"This is another advantage of our location. The 90-Meter Tower is a tourist attraction.

People who aren't accustomed to going to church are more likely to visit us for the first time," he adds.

Also, because Baptists are such a small minority in Canada, the 16 founding members of the group chose the name Mountain View Christian Fellowship, leaving the word "Baptist" out of their name but not out of their purpose. The church is supported by the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists.

The group began meeting last spring in home Bible study groups. Since Sept. 10 they have had Sunday morning services at the tower. About 50 regularly attend, most of whom also attend one of the three home groups.

For \$200 a week they rent the top two floors of the tower which overlook the ski-jump. One floor is for children's Sunday School, the other for the worship service. Each floor can accommodate about 80 people.

Since the tower is the only operational 90-meter tower in the world, it stands to reason that Mountain View Christian Fellowship is the only church of its kind.

But some things stay the same Christopherson asserts: "We support the Cooperative Program and our association. We give to our national offering, Harvest Missions, and we'll give to Lot-tie Moon and Annie Armstrong when those offerings are taken. And like most Southern Baptists we have an evangelistic spirit."

Christopherson, 31, was in the first graduating class of the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary, Cochrane. He was pastor of First Church, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, for five and a half years before coming to Calgary. He and his wife Laura have two children, Kelley and Jamie.

"Our church's vision is to be a church for the unchurched," Christopherson says, adding, "we see the 90-Meter Tower as a means to facilitate that vision."



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My ex-wife, who wrecked our marriage and impoverished our family when she divorced me and quickly remarried, now wants to "come home." What should I do?*

Don't jump too quickly. Examine closely the reasons she wants to come home. What happened to her second husband? She made a commitment — a covenant — to her second husband, which is just as binding as the covenant she broke with you. If her second husband died or committed adultery, Scripture alludes to those instances as possible reasons for remarriage. If her second husband was abusive or abandoned her, these reasons may be acceptable. If her second husband was not a Christian and wanted out of the marriage, then she is free to let him go. To fully understand all of this, both of you should seek Christian counseling. Give yourselves time to study all sides of this matter. If it turns out the two of you are scripturally sound in what you want to do, you should make time NOW to

explore what went wrong the first time you were married.

*My boss calls me into his office during business hours while he watches dirty movies. I'm afraid I'll lose my job if I blow the whistle, but this is making me a nervous wreck.*

Rather than "blowing the whistle," a direct approach may achieve the results you seek. Tell him that you do not enjoy watching movies. Be honest about your discomfort and your need to avoid such material. If he cannot respect that need, you must decide whether you want to invest the rest of your working life in that situation. You can begin searching for another job while you are still employed there. Your boss may be getting pleasure through your discomfort; it could even be a form of voyeurism ("Peeping Tom") into your life. This could also be looked upon as sexual harassment, so be sure to discuss your legal rights with an attorney.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1995

NB NWFN HNBABT FNBB, S KWV, ANWF OH  
CSST; WVT ANWF TSNF FNB RSYT YBMXOYB SL  
FNBB, ZXF FS TS UXHFRQ, WVT FS RSPB KBYDQ,  
WVT FS AWRE NXKZRQ AOFN FNQ CST?

KODWN HOI: BOCNF

This week's clue: N equals H.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Nine: Twenty-Three.

Baptist Record

005-DIM 291 11-02  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL 50000  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

NOVEMBER 2, 1995

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205